

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A computer system for providing a valuation of an intellectual property asset, the computer system comprising:

5 at least one server computer connected to one or more client computers via a global-area network; and a computer program executed by the server computer;

10 wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

storing information about the intellectual property asset in a database, the information comprising a technology classification;

15 storing information about publicly traded securities according to the technology classification in the database; and

20 generating a valuation based on call option pricing theory, using the information about the intellectual property asset and the information about the publicly traded securities stored in the database.

25 2. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the information about the intellectual property asset comprises information from legal instruments conveying rights to the intellectual property asset.

30 3. The computer system of claim 2, wherein the information about the intellectual property asset further comprises estimated time and cost to commercialize a product based on the intellectual property asset.

4. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the information about publicly traded securities comprises enterprise value of companies in a same technology classification as the intellectual property asset.

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5. The computer system of claim 4, wherein the enterprise values are updated periodically based on stock prices, shares outstanding, and book value of the companies, wherein the stock prices are transferred to 10 the database from an external source.

6. The computer system of claim 1, wherein computing a valuation based on call option pricing theory further comprises using information about 15 completed intellectual property asset transfer transactions.

7. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the call option pricing theory is the Black-Scholes theory.

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8. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the computer program further comprises instructions for evaluating risk of the intellectual property asset based on a change of the valuation relative to a change 25 in an average of enterprise values of publicly traded companies in a same technology classification as the intellectual property asset.

9. A computer system for determining a suggested 30 price for transfer of intellectual property rights between buyers and sellers of intellectual property assets, wherein the rights comprise licenses and assignments of the intellectual property assets, the computer system comprising:

at least one server computer connected to one or more client computers via a global-area network; and a computer program executed by the server computer;

5 wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

10 storing information about a term of an intellectual property asset and about licensing conditions offered by the seller in a database; and

15 generating a suggested asking price wherein a value of the intellectual property rights is modified according to the licensing conditions.

20 10. The computer system of claim 9, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for graphically displaying on a client computer projected yearly income to the seller over the term of the intellectual property asset, based on the suggested selling price, and a balance between immediate and future payments.

25 11. The computer system of claim 9, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for computing the balance between immediate and future payments such that the sum of the immediate payment and the future payments is equal to the suggested selling price, wherein the future payments are modified by a discount rate which depends 30 on a risk valuation of the intellectual property asset.

12. A computer system for providing an index for market value of intellectual property assets belonging

to a technology classification, the computer system comprising:

at least one server computer connected to one or more client computers via a global-area network; and

5 a computer program executed by the server computer;

wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

10 storing information about companies having publicly traded securities in a database, wherein the companies operate predominantly within the technology classification; and

15 computing an average of the enterprise value of the companies using the information about the companies stored in the database.

13. The computer system of claim 12 wherein the information about companies having publicly traded securities comprises a stock price, number of outstanding shares, assets, and debts of the companies and wherein the enterprise value of each company is calculated based on the product of the stock price and the number of outstanding shares less the difference between the assets and debts of each company.

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14. The computer system of claim 13 wherein information about the stock prices of the companies is transferred periodically to the database via the global-area network and the computer program further comprises instructions for recalculating the average of enterprise values periodically based on updated stock prices.

15. A computer system for storing information about intellectual property assets, the computer system comprising:

at least one server computer connected to one or
5 more client computers via a global-area network; and
a computer program executed by the server computer;

wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

10 storing quantitative information about attributes of a technology described by the intellectual property assets.

15. The computer system of claim 15 wherein the quantitative information for each attribute comprises a standard scientific unit, a description of the attribute, a minimum value of the attribute achieved by the technology, expressed in the unit, and a maximum value of the attribute achieved by the technology,
20 expressed in the unit.

17. A method for providing a valuation of an intellectual property asset using a computer system comprising at least one server computer and one or more client computers connected to the server computer via a global-area network, the method comprising:

30 storing information about the intellectual property asset in a database, the information comprising a technology classification;

storing information about publicly traded securities according to the technology classification in the database; and

generating a valuation based on call option pricing theory, using the information about the

intellectual property asset and the information about the publicly traded securities stored in the database.

5 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the information about the intellectual property asset comprises information from legal instruments conveying rights to the intellectual property asset.

10 19. The method of claim 18, wherein the information about the intellectual property asset further comprises estimated time and cost to commercialize a product based on the intellectual property asset.

15 20. The method of claim 17, wherein the information about publicly traded securities comprises enterprise value of companies in a same technology classification as the intellectual property asset.

20 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the enterprise values are updated periodically based on stock prices, shares outstanding, and book value of the companies, wherein the stock prices are transferred to 25 the database from an external source.

22. The method of claim 17, wherein computing a valuation based on call option pricing theory further comprises using information about completed 30 intellectual property asset transfer transactions.

23. The method of claim 17, wherein the call option pricing theory is the Black-Scholes theory.

24. The method of claim 17, wherein the computer program further comprises instructions for evaluating risk of the intellectual property asset based on a change of the valuation relative to a change in an
5 average of enterprise values of publicly traded companies in a same technology classification as the intellectual property asset.

25. A method for determining a suggested price
10 for transfer of intellectual property rights between buyers and sellers of intellectual property assets, wherein the rights comprise licenses and assignments of the intellectual property assets, the method using a computer system comprising at least one server computer
15 and one or more client computers connected to the server computer via a global-area network, and the method comprising:

20 storing information about a term of an intellectual property asset and about licensing conditions offered by the seller in a database; and

25 generating a suggested asking price wherein a value of the intellectual property rights is modified according to the licensing conditions.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for graphically displaying on a client computer projected yearly income to the seller over the term of the
30 intellectual property asset, based on the suggested selling price, and a balance between immediate and future payments.

27. The method of claim 25, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for computing the balance between immediate and future payments such that the sum of the immediate payment and 5 the future payments is equal to the suggested selling price, wherein the future payments are modified by a discount rate which depends on a risk valuation of the intellectual property asset.

10 28. A method for providing an index for market value of intellectual property assets belonging to a technology classification using a computer system comprising at least one server computer and one or more client computers connected to the server computer via a 15 global-area network, the method comprising:

storing information about companies having publicly traded securities in a database, wherein the companies operate predominantly within the technology classification; and

20 computing an average of the enterprise value of the companies using the information about the companies stored in the database.

25 29. The method of claim 28 wherein the information about companies having publicly traded securities comprises a stock price, number of outstanding shares, assets, and debts of the companies and wherein the enterprise value of each company is calculated based on the product of the stock price and 30 the number of outstanding shares less the difference between the assets and debts of each company.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein information about the stock prices of the companies is transferred

periodically to the database via the global-area network and the computer program further comprises instructions for recalculating the average of enterprise values periodically based on updated stock prices.

31. A method for storing information about intellectual property assets using a computer system comprising at least one server computer and one or more client computers connected to the server computer via a global-area network, the method comprising:

storing quantitative information about attributes of a technology described by the intellectual property assets.

15 32. The method of claim 31 wherein the
quantitative information for each attribute comprises a
standard scientific unit, a description of the
attribute, a minimum value of the attribute achieved by
20 the technology, expressed in the unit, and a maximum
value of the attribute achieved by the technology,
expressed in the unit.

33. A computer-readable storage medium
25 operatively coupled to a computer system for providing
a valuation of an intellectual property asset, wherein
the computer system comprises at least one server
computer connected to one or more client computers via
a global-area network, the computer-readable storage
30 medium comprising computer instructions for:

storing information about the intellectual property asset in a database, the information comprising a technology classification;

storing information about publicly traded securities according to the technology classification in the database; and

5 generating a valuation based on call option pricing theory, using the information about the intellectual property asset and the information about the publicly traded securities stored in the database.

10 34. The storage medium of claim 33, wherein the information about the intellectual property asset comprises information from legal instruments conveying rights to the intellectual property asset.

15 35. The storage medium of claim 34, wherein the information about the intellectual property asset further comprises estimated time and cost to commercialize a product based on the intellectual property asset.

20 36. The storage medium of claim 33, wherein the information about publicly traded securities comprises enterprise value of companies in a same technology classification as the intellectual property asset.

25 37. The storage medium of claim 36, wherein the enterprise values are updated periodically based on stock prices, shares outstanding, and book value of the companies, wherein the stock prices are transferred to 30 the database from an external source.

38. The storage medium of claim 33, wherein computing a valuation based on call option pricing theory further comprises using information about

completed intellectual property asset transfer transactions.

39. The storage medium of claim 33, wherein the
5 call option pricing theory is the Black-Scholes theory.

40. The storage medium of claim 33, wherein the
computer program further comprises instructions for
evaluating risk of the intellectual property asset
10 based on a change of the valuation relative to a change
in an average of enterprise values of publicly traded
companies in a same technology classification as the
intellectual property asset.

15 41. A computer-readable storage medium
operatively coupled to a computer system for
determining a suggested price for transfer of
intellectual property rights between buyers and sellers
of intellectual property assets, wherein the rights
20 comprise licenses and assignments of the intellectual
property assets, and wherein the computer system
comprises at least one server computer connected to one
or more client computers via a global-area network, the
computer-readable storage medium comprising computer
25 instructions for:

storing information about a term of an
intellectual property asset and about licensing
conditions offered by the seller in a database;
and

30 generating a suggested asking price wherein a
value of the intellectual property rights is
modified according to the licensing conditions.

42. The storage medium of claim 41, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for graphically displaying on a client computer projected yearly income to the seller over the 5 term of the intellectual property asset, based on the suggested selling price, and a balance between immediate and future payments.

43. The storage medium of claim 41, wherein the 10 computer program further comprises computer instructions for computing the balance between immediate and future payments such that the sum of the immediate payment and the future payments is equal to the suggested selling price, wherein the future 15 payments are modified by a discount rate which depends on a risk valuation of the intellectual property asset.

44. A computer-readable storage medium 20 operatively coupled to a computer system for providing an index for market value of intellectual property assets belonging to a technology, wherein the computer system comprises at least one server computer connected to one or more client computers via a global-area network, the computer-readable storage medium 25 comprising computer instructions for:

storing information about companies having publicly traded securities in a database, wherein the companies operate predominantly within the technology classification; and

30 computing an average of the enterprise value of the companies using the information about the companies stored in the database.

45. The storage medium of claim 44 wherein the information about companies having publicly traded securities comprises a stock price, number of outstanding shares, assets, and debts of the companies and wherein the enterprise value of each company is calculated based on the product of the stock price and the number of outstanding shares less the difference between the assets and debts of each company.

10 46. The storage medium of claim 45 wherein information about the stock prices of the companies is transferred periodically to the database via the global-area network and the computer program further comprises instructions for recalculating the average of 15 enterprise values periodically based on updated stock prices.

20 47. A computer-readable storage medium operatively coupled to a computer system for storing information about intellectual property assets, wherein the computer system comprises at least one server computer connected to one or more client computers via a global-area network, the computer-readable storage medium comprising computer instructions for:

25 storing quantitative information about attributes of a technology described by the intellectual property assets.

30 48. The storage medium of claim 47 wherein the quantitative information for each attribute comprises a standard scientific unit, a description of the attribute, a minimum value of the attribute achieved by the technology expressed in the unit, and a maximum

value of the attribute achieved by the technology,
expressed in the unit.

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